

**SALINA ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION**  
**May 17, 2006**

The monthly meeting of the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission was held at the Smoky Hill Museum Community Room at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, 2006. In attendance were Marilyn Benyshek, David Cooper, Trent Davis, Peggy DeBey, Randall Hardy, Luci Larson, Rachel Loersch, Linda Moore, Linda Smith, and Ted Zerger. Staff Present: Sharon Benson, Kathy Burlew, Brigid Hall, John Highkin, Glenda Johnson, and Karla Prickett. Also in attendance: Carmen Wilson, League of Women Voters and April Middleton, Salina Journal. Absent: Cheri Parr, John K. Vanier II, and Paula Wright. Staff absent: Carrie Carpenter.

Larson called the meeting to order 4:35 p.m.

Highkin congratulated Ted and Vera Zerger for receiving recognition for their wonderful community work, the annual Salina Award for Outstanding Citizenship from the Greater Salina Community Foundation.

**Focus Time: Festival Part 2**

A list of businesses was distributed for Commissioners to deliver Festival prints along with the volunteer sign up sheet for several areas at the Festival. Hall explained the sign up sheets and what would be needed from the Commissioners.

Benson reported on Festival entertainment. The Festival website [www.riverfestival.com](http://www.riverfestival.com) includes samples of entertainers and their music.

There are 32 food booths including 8 new ones. Hillbilly Kettle Korn and Texas Tators are two who have been here before but were not vendors last year. Benson gave an overview of the remaining 6 new vendors. Due to the electrical improvements, Benson and staff have made adjustments regarding placements of food booths.

Drink coupons are distributed to volunteers who work in Children's Art Part and families who are recognized in participating in our Festival Families First program.

The biggest focus for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary has been interactive projects throughout the year. Prickett reported on the pre-festival workshops including the Knuckle Down workshop in collaboration with Smoky Hill Museum: people 5 – 105 can learn how to play marble games with Moon Marble's Bruce Breslow and other instructors. Other pre-festival workshops include the Cardboard Art Car painting workshop on Monday and Tuesday; Bikes, Wagons and Wheels decorating on Wednesday. The Santa Fe Art Car Cruise will take place on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m., the cardboard art cars and bikes will follow the art cars for the parade. The Salina Project public reception for Les Slesnick and those whom he photographed will take place at the Stiefel Theatre on Tuesday evening the 6<sup>th</sup> of June.

In the art areas - demonstration area is half new, 36 Fine Art booths are new, as are 20 in the Four Rivers Craft Market. Pre-festival art show is on at the Country Club. Prickett reminded everyone about Gift Certificates, T-Shirts, and buttons for sale. Prickett also talked about the Art Patron program and its importance as a foundation for support to encourage artists to continue coming to the show.

DeBey – is the time for people to enter the gates the same as last year? Hall – yes, it worked really well last year. The work in the park was completed a lot easier not having to work around people. Benyshek – is the race being coordinated the same as last year? Hall – yes, the five mile is in front of the hospital. Due to the construction in front of the hospital, Hall has cleared all concerns regarding any interruptions. About 800 walkers/runners participated in last year event and COMCARE expects the same for this year.

### **Minutes**

Benyshek motioned to approve the April 19, 2006 minutes and Moore seconded. Motion passed.

### **Staff Reports**

Benson reported that SAHC's grant was ranked number 1 out of 33 by a Kansas Arts Commission panel in the KAC's arts in education program.

### **Commission Nominating Committee**

The nominating committee will be meeting Monday night to set some perimeters, guidelines and review some of the list from last year. This year's committee is Cooper, DeBey, and Benyshek, with Highkin as staff. Cooper will send an email to the SAHC commission regarding the discussion.

### **Museum Update**

Highkin reported on the great success for the Smoky Hill Museum Big Debut. Lots of entertainment throughout the day - reported a total of 4,000 to 5,000 people.

The Museum is very close to being complete. Plans are in progress to replace the main sign in front of the Museum and to restore the silver leaf of the lobby ceiling.

Highkin – four phone interviews were completed for the Museum Director position and two candidates have been selected for interviews on Monday.

In collaboration with the Festival staff, the Museum will be presenting a Marble workshop Thursday, June 8th. Benyshek – has there been more attendance since the opening? Highkin – yes, which was the intent of the grand re-opening.. Larson – Museum Store sales of \$1682 is a great outcome. Highkin- \$800 is from the Big Debut day, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **Horizons**

The Sudden Opportunity Grant “Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration” was reviewed and discussed. Benson – the fiscal agent for The Hispanic Pride Committee of Salina is the Salina Human Relations Commission. Benson read the brief summary. The group is requesting \$500 to buy 27 flags to represent 27 Latin Countries that are countries of origin for Hispanics residing in Salina. Davis – who would own the flag? Benson – this Committee will hold the ownership. Benyshek – artistic fee? Benson – they are looking at doing the exhibition in Sunset Park, using local performers. Benyshek – with the border control in the news is this a good idea politically? Benson – the Committee is trying to build some bridges in the community. Benyshek – the application tells us about their committee and trying to involve themselves with activities throughout the community. Benson – the Cinco de Mayo program at Heartland provided information on social services available to immigrant families and discussed problems in the United States, creating a cultural bridge. Cooper – is this a new committee? Benson – yes, it’s been meeting every month. Benson – their hope is to go beyond being a one time event. Davis made a motion to approve the Sudden Opportunity Grant and Cooper seconded. Motion passed.

Highkin reported on receiving all the Horizons membership renewals for a three year term 06-07-08.

SAHC will be accepting applications for the Horizons Artist Awards again this fall. The deadline for application is September 1, 2006. It has been recommended to offer these awards in conjunction with the Lana Jordan Developing Artists grants to teach new applicants how to enter a grants process. Benson – artists can apply for both. In writing the grants, we ask them to talk with staff. This helps with process of artist education. Benyshek motioned to approve offering the Horizons Artist Awards for the fall and Davis seconded. Motion passed.

### **Strategic Planning**

Highkin reported on the strategic planning session held on April 27 with consultant, Diane Mataraza. Diane had separate meetings with SAHC staff and SAHC Commissioners. Highkin received a draft of the report today and will be sending an email to Commissioners. Staff identified needs and processes of strategic planning, and did an evaluation of existing programs and delivery on a 1-6 scale.

Commissioners Zerger, Moore, Smith, Perney, Benyshek and Larson met with Diane and discussed what they hear about SAHC from the community and the media. Bottom line is this planning this is not going to happen over night – it’s a long term process and requires all people (staff and Commissioners) to work together from beginning to end.

Diane and Highkin met with Martha Rhea and Ellen Morgan to discuss the history of planning of this organization and its connection with the City of Salina. The most important focus is on our agency and what we can do within the context of a comprehensive community assessment.

Highkin – the process will take 12 months. Smith – commented that Perney mentioned this is a good timing for planning since several places like the City of Salina and other entities are getting new leadership, etc.

Cooper – will this process be conducted with Diane? Highkin – as a department of the City we will have to go through a bid process, starting with a Request for Proposals (RFP).

**Other Business**

There being no further business, Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting and Benyshek seconded. Motion passed.

Larson adjourned the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

/kab